



DRILLER

DEPA REPORT ON INDUSTRY, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATION AND ENERGY REGULATION

THE EPA INTERIM FINAL RULE ON EMISSIONS REPORTING CREATES MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

While the momentum toward sounder policy is welcome, the EPA's July 29 announcement muddied the waters for many operators.

The Methane Coalition legal advisor Attorney Jim Elliott breaks it down: Although the EPA issued an **Interim Final Rule** delaying certain technical and compliance deadlines within Subparts OOOOb and OOOOc, **reporting obligations were *not* delayed.**

This has understandably caused confusion in the industry, as some believed the entire rule was put on hold. To clarify:

You are still required to submit emissions reporting under OOOOb and OOOOc starting in August 2025—unless your company submits an individual request for additional time.

Trade associations—including DEPA—requested a blanket delay on reporting. EPA declined that request, stating that **only individual companies may apply** for extensions.

July 29th we sent a template letter to companies and other trade organizations to forward to their member companies. This template requests a deadline extension. If you didn't get this template letter, and would like a copy, please contact Cynthia Simonds in the DEPA office, csimonds@depausa.org.

Here's What Was Delayed in the Rule:

- Control devices, equipment leaks, storage vessels, process controllers, and closed vent systems
- Super Emitter Program implementation timeline
- State plan submittal deadline (extended 540 days beyond March 2026)
- Net Heating Value (NHV) monitoring of flares (extended 120 days)
- Enclosed Combustion Device (ECD) performance testing (extended 540 days)
- No Identifiable Emission (NIE) compliance (extended 540 days)
- Equipment leak repair compliance (extended 540 days)
- Zero-emission process controller standard (extended 540 days)
- Legal enforceability provisions (extended 540 days)



What Was *Not* Delayed:

- **Reporting Requirements Under 0000b/0000c** These remain in place unless an individual company secures an extension directly from EPA.
- EPA is also requesting public comments on the Interim Final Rule. Comments are due **30 days from its posting in the Federal Register**. We strongly encourage operators to submit data-backed comments supporting regulatory clarity and rational compliance timelines.

Finding, a regulatory cornerstone that has enabled sweeping and burdensome climate-related mandates. DEPA President/CEO, Jerry Simmons has consistently warned that the Endangerment Finding, put in place during the Obama administration, was not grounded in objective science but driven by political momentum.

“Rolling back these methane regulations isn’t a step backward,” Simmons emphasized. “It’s a course correction. We can protect the environment without burying our producers in unnecessary paperwork. Trust, innovation, and results should be rewarded—not punished.”

For more than a year, Simmons has been the lone voice in the wilderness urging policymakers to revisit—and repeal—the 2009 Endangerment Finding, a regulatory cornerstone that has enabled sweeping and burdensome climate-related mandates. Simmons has consistently warned that the Endangerment Finding, put in place during the Obama administration, was not grounded in objective science but driven by political momentum.

“For over a decade, the Endangerment Finding has served as the legal linchpin for regulatory overreach,” said Simmons. “It was built on faulty assumptions, outdated data, and political pressure—not on a fair or transparent review of the science or the industry’s performance. Eliminating it is a critical step in restoring balance to environmental governance and protecting America’s energy security.”



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DEPA believes in seeking common ground, through common sense solutions, to the challenges facing our industry. Our bipartisan approach provides a uniquely powerful voice for our members at the state and national level.

*Our work is critical.
Your support is vital.*

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DEPA'S LETTER TO ADMINISTRATOR ZELDIN: A Call for Common Sense

Back in May 2025, DEPA formally communicated its support for Administrator Zeldin's bold regulatory course correction in a letter that called the repeal effort "a critical step to alleviate trillions in regulatory costs that have strained American families and industries."

In that letter, DEPA outlined the facts that expose the disconnect between the Endangerment Finding and the reality of today's energy landscape:

- **Methane Emissions Have Dropped Dramatically:** EPA data shows methane emissions from natural gas systems declined by 21% from 1990 to 2022—even as production more than doubled.
- **Real-World Reductions in Key Basins:** From 2019 to 2023, methane emissions dropped 87% in the Arkoma, 52% in the Appalachian, 45% in the Anadarko, and 32% in the Permian Basin—all while setting production records.
- **Natural Gas Is Driving Emissions Down:** The shift from coal to natural gas in power generation accounts for the lion's share of recent U.S. greenhouse gas reductions.
- **Innovation, Not Regulation, Is Delivering Results:** These achievements weren't mandated—they were earned through operator innovation, best practices, and the drive to reduce waste.

A Smarter Path Forward: Repeal Redundant Methane Rules

DEPA's May letter—co-signed by the National Stripper Well Association—also requested the repeal of several costly and overlapping methane-related rules, including:

- Subpart W of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program
- NSPS Subparts OOOO, OOOOa, OOOOb, and OOOOc



The Big Picture: Reality-Based Regulation Is Within Reach

With the EPA moving toward a repeal of the Endangerment Finding and acknowledging the need for flexibility in implementation, DEPA's message is finally resonating: **Energy security, economic strength, and environmental responsibility can—and must—go hand in hand.**

DEPA will continue to lead the charge for common-sense energy policy and regulatory reform rooted in facts, not politics.

Stay tuned as we keep you updated on the repeal process, reporting extensions, and how to navigate EPA's evolving landscape.

We're here to make sure you stay ahead—and stay heard.



ENDANGERMENT FINDING ONE PAGER



Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will reconsider the 2009 Endangerment Finding. Through this reconsideration, EPA will give the public a chance to weigh in on the science, law, and policy choices at issue in the Finding. EPA cannot prejudge the outcome of this reconsideration process.

WHAT IS THE ENDANGERMENT FINDING & WHY DOES IT MATTER?

The 2009 Endangerment Finding was the first step in the Obama-Biden Administration's (and later the Biden-Harris Administration's) overreaching climate agenda. That agenda has imposed trillions of dollars of costs on Americans. For a generation, defenders of this agenda have avoided scrutiny of how it all began. That evasion ends today.

THE HISTORY

In 2007, the Supreme Court in *Massachusetts v. EPA* ruled that the George W. Bush EPA erred when in 2003 it denied a petition to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from new motor vehicles that the petitioners argued were causing climate change. Massachusetts held that the Clean Air Act's general, Act-wide definition of "air pollutant" was broad enough to include carbon dioxide. Massachusetts explicitly did not hold that EPA was required to regulate these emissions from these sources.

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT

When the Court sent the matter back to EPA, the agency proceeded in an unorthodox manner. Slicing and dicing the language of the statute, it made an "endangerment finding" totally separate from any actual rulemaking setting standards for emissions from cars. EPA argued it had the authority to do this because Congress didn't specifically forbid it from taking this approach. By taking this approach, the Endangerment Finding intentionally ignored costs of regulations that EPA knew would follow from the Finding—and indeed ignored any other policy impacts of those regulations.

The Finding also took an unorthodox approach with the alleged "pollutant" at issue. It focused not solely on carbon dioxide, but on a mix of six gases—some of which cars don't even emit. Contrary to popular belief, the Finding never makes a straight-line conclusion that carbon dioxide from new motor vehicle engines is causing endangerment. Instead, it looked at this mix of six gases, from all sources over the world, and used multiple mental leaps to determine that this mix contributed, not caused, an unknown amount above zero to climate change, and that climate change contributed, not caused, an unknown amount above zero of endangerment to public health. Then, the Finding looked at U.S. vehicle emissions—the only thing this section of the Clean Air Act actually authorizes EPA to regulate—and said that they were a big enough piece of the pie (some 4 percent of global emissions) to be "causing or contributing" to the mix of six gases—not to the endangerment itself.

BOTTOM LINE

EPA does not prejudge the outcome of this reconsideration, but these and other legal issues require fresh scrutiny, particularly in light of multiple major Supreme Court cases issued since the Finding came out, including *Loper Bright*, *West Virginia*, *UARG*, and *Michigan*. Additionally, the Finding acknowledges multiple areas of serious uncertainty and does not take account of subsequent major developments in innovative technologies, science, economics, and mitigation. With this reconsideration, EPA will ensure that the Endangerment Finding complies with the law and is based on sound science and policy, as it must do with all its actions.

IT'S TIME TO GET REAL ABOUT ENERGY SUBSIDIES

AN OP/ED BY JERRY SIMMONS, DEPA PRESIDENT/CEO



A recent *Politico* article covering the Senate's reconciliation bill tells a familiar story — one that's heavy on headlines and light on historical context. According to the article, the bill delivers a "Big Oil bonanza" by rolling back royalty rates and providing so-called subsidies to the fossil fuel industry. But let's be clear: what the Senate passed isn't a windfall for oil and gas — it's a badly needed course correction.

For nearly 100 years, the federal government charged a 12.5% royalty rate on oil and natural gas production on public lands. That rate worked. It generated consistent revenue, encouraged responsible development, and gave small, independent producers — who drill most of America's wells — a chance to compete. It wasn't broken.

Then came the Biden Administration's abrupt decision to hike royalties to 16.67% as part of a broader push to phase out fossil fuels. This wasn't about balancing the budget or modernizing policy. It was about punishing domestic production in the name of a transition that's still technologically and economically out of reach for much of the country.

Restoring the royalty rate to 12.5% isn't a "subsidy." It's not a giveaway or a loophole. It's a return to the same rate that funded schools, roads, and public services in energy-producing states for generations — while keeping fuel prices affordable for American families.

The bill also puts enhanced oil recovery (EOR) using captured carbon dioxide on equal footing with other carbon sequestration strategies supported under the Inflation Reduction Act. That's not a favor to the fossil fuel industry — it's common-sense climate and energy policy. EOR is one of the only large-scale, commercially viable uses for captured CO₂. If

we're serious about reducing emissions, we need to support every effective pathway — not just the politically popular ones.

Critics also point to a delayed methane fee as a handout to polluters. What they don't mention is that many small and mid-sized producers — the backbone of America's domestic energy sector — are already investing in emission-reducing technology without federal mandates. But arbitrary fees and compliance costs only drive-up energy prices, discourage innovation, and push production overseas to places with fewer environmental safeguards.

The truth is, the U.S. oil and gas industry isn't made up of faceless mega-corporations. More than 80% of our wells are operated by independent producers — family-owned businesses and small companies who work hard every day to power this country. When policymakers treat us like villains, it's the American people who pay the price — at the pump, on their utility bills, and in the form of lost jobs and economic instability.

I've worked in this industry for decades. I've seen the ups and downs, the booms and busts, and the policy pendulum swing too far in both directions. What we need now is balance — not rhetoric. We need lawmakers and the media to recognize the essential role oil and natural gas still play in our economy and national security, and to give producers the regulatory certainty to do their jobs safely and efficiently.

Our industry doesn't need handouts. We need access, consistency, and fairness. This bill doesn't create a "bonanza." It restores balance — and with it, the promise of a stable, affordable, domestic energy future.



LEGAL EARTHQUAKE: HOW RECENT COURT RULINGS AND REGULATORY SHIFTS ARE RESHAPING THE PLAYING FIELD FOR U.S. ENERGY COMPANIES

The U.S. legal and regulatory landscape is undergoing a seismic shift—and for oil and gas producers, the aftershocks are already being felt. Landmark decisions from the U.S. Supreme Court, combined with growing state-level assertiveness and structural judicial reforms in energy-producing states, have created a more litigious and uncertain environment for domestic producers and service companies.

While these changes may ultimately restore balance between government oversight and private enterprise, the near-term terrain is legally complex and strategically sensitive. The following are the **top five legal and regulatory trends** shaping oil and gas operations as of mid-2025:

1. EXPLOSION IN FEDERAL RULE CHALLENGES

Following the Supreme Court's rulings in *Loper Bright v. Raimondo*, *SEC v. Jarkesy*, and *Corner Post v. Board of Governors*, regulated entities now have a broader window to challenge federal regulations—even those that have been on the books for years.

With the Chevron doctrine overturned, courts must now independently interpret federal statutes rather than defer to agencies. That means any regulation lacking clear statutory authority is vulnerable. Agencies, in turn, may avoid using administrative proceedings in enforcement and may shift toward more cautious policymaking.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ARE NOW LEGAL AMMUNITION

The Supreme Court's *Ohio v. EPA* decision made it clear: if federal agencies fail to adequately respond to **substantive public comments**, their rules can be overturned in court. For energy companies and trade groups, the stakes of the notice-and-comment period are higher than ever.

Detailed, well-supported comments have become a critical legal tool, not just a procedural obligation. Producers must engage early and strategically to protect future litigation rights.

3. STATES TAKE THE REGULATORY WHEEL

With the federal government's regulatory reach now nar-

“This Supreme Court has returned to the foundational principle that laws are made by Congress, not unelected regulators,” said Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance (DEPA). “For independent producers, that opens the door to contest unreasonable rules—and gives our industry a fighting chance to be heard in court.”



rowed, states like **Oklahoma, Texas, and North Dakota** are stepping up with their own evolving frameworks. Rulemaking in these states is gaining momentum, particularly on issues like well integrity, air emissions, seismicity, and orphan well responsibility.

Energy companies must double down on state-level compliance strategies, not just rely on federal oversight. What’s legal in D.C. may now be shaped in Austin, Oklahoma City, or Bismarck.

4. RISE OF ENERGY-FOCUSED BUSINESS COURTS

States are adapting their judicial systems to better handle complex commercial disputes. The new Texas Business Court and 15th Court of Appeals are already altering how litigation unfolds, and Oklahoma and others are watching closely.

These specialized courts aim to provide faster, more predictable rulings in disputes over joint operating agreements, mineral rights, and regulatory conflicts. For producers and service companies, venue selection and legal strategy must evolve to reflect these institutional changes.

5. NEW RISKS, NEW REWARDS

The broader takeaway is that regulatory instability creates opportunity and risk. Rules can now be challenged more easily—but that means competitors and opponents will also be more litigious. Agencies may tread more carefully, but that could slow permitting or change enforcement.

This landscape calls for proactive legal monitoring, a sharpened compliance playbook, and industry-wide coordination to protect operational continuity and long-term investment.

WHAT’S NEXT?

Energy companies need to build legal risk awareness into everyday operations—not just compliance. Contracts, permits, investment decisions, and even board governance may be impacted by how courts re-interpret the limits of agency power and procedural fairness.

“This moment is historic,” added DEPA’s Simmons. “The rules of the game are being rewritten—and independent oil and gas producers must step up, speak out, and adapt. The future is wide open for those who are ready.”



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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT PROPOSAL TO MODERNIZE COMMINGLING RULES COULD SAVE INDUSTRY \$1.8 BILLION ANNUALLY

In a major move to modernize federal energy policy and cut unnecessary red tape, the U.S. Department of the Interior has proposed long-overdue updates to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oil and gas regulations. The proposal would make it significantly easier for operators to commingle production from multiple onshore federal leases—even when mineral ownership, royalty rates, or revenue distribution terms differ.

This commonsense reform, directed by the One Big Beautiful Bill, delivers on the Trump administration’s commitment to reducing regulatory barriers, supporting domestic energy development, and modernizing outdated policies. The new rules would unlock production across complex leaseholds, particularly in the American West where mineral ownership is often a patchwork of interests.

“Today’s oil and gas operations are far more advanced than when these regulations were first written,” said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. “The current rules were written for a different era. These updates will help us manage public resources more efficiently, support responsible energy production, and make sure taxpayers and tribes get every dollar they’re owed.”

Congressman Westley Hunt (R-TX-38) an advocate for this reform said. *“Since the day I entered Congress, unleashing American energy and championing our vital oil and gas sector has been a top priority. I’m proud that, under President Trump’s leadership, our commingling policy is now law through the One Big Beautiful Bill.”*

PRODUCTION COMMINGLING BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Congressman Hunt’s **commingling language** was included in Title V, Section 50101, Subsection (q) in the One Big Beautiful Bill. This language will allow all exploration and pro-

duction companies operating on federal lands to combine their facilities (e.g., storage containers, oil/gas sales pipelines) from different leases into one set of facilities.

The implementation of this language by the DOI will

- Significantly decrease the cost to drill a well, thereby reducing energy prices for Americans.
- Substantially minimize the surface impact of drilling a well, benefiting the environment.
- Drastically improve emissions controls in the oil patch.

Currently, BLM regulations only allow commingling when leases have identical mineral ownership and royalty structures—an increasingly rare circumstance. The proposed rule recognizes modern metering and allocation technologies that allow operators to precisely measure production and fairly distribute royalties to all mineral owners, regardless of lease complexity.

Jerry Simmons, DEPA President/CEO praised the proposal: ***“This is exactly the kind of regulatory reform that will help American energy producers continue delivering affordable, reliable energy to the nation. Unlocking stranded production through smart commingling policies is not only good for business—it’s good for taxpayers, landowners, and energy security.”***

The Department estimates that the proposed updates could

CONT’D ON PAGE 15

DEPA CELEBRATES SENATE PASSAGE OF H.R. 1 A VICTORY FOR AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCERS

The first day of July DEPA celebrated the Senate’s passage of **H.R. 1, “The One Big Beautiful Bill,”** a landmark piece of legislation that delivers meaningful, pro-growth energy policy reform for America’s independent oil and natural gas producers.

DEPA is proud to share that every priority we advocated for was reflected in this final bill — marking a major victory for domestic energy, economic security, and the hardworking families and communities who power our nation.

The legislation includes several key tax priorities that DEPA has championed as essential to maintaining U.S. energy independence and encouraging continued investment in domestic production:

Relief from the Corporate

Alternative Minimum Tax (CAMT):

H.R. 1 addresses the harmful impact of the CAMT by restoring IDC deductibility for tax purposes, ensuring independent producers aren’t penalized for investing in domestic energy development.

These provisions, along with broader permitting and regulatory reforms in the bill, represent a sweeping validation of DEPA’s mission: to educate lawmakers and maintain a strong, fact-based dialogue about the policies that shape America’s energy future.

Simmons added, “This victory underscores the importance of consistent, honest dialogue with lawmakers. DEPA’s work on Capitol Hill has

This is a monumental day for U.S. energy producers and a hard-earned win for DEPA,”** said Jerry Simmons, President and CEO of the Domestic Energy Producers Alliance. **“H.R. 1 restores balance to the energy conversation in Washington by reaffirming the critical role of domestic oil and natural gas. Our industry creates jobs, fuels the economy, and supports national security—and now we have a legislative foundation that recognizes and supports that reality.”

- **Preservation of Intangible Drilling Cost (IDC)**

Deductions: H.R. 1 protects the ability of independent producers to fully deduct intangible drilling costs in the year they are incurred—a tax provision that has existed since 1918 and is vital to capital reinvestment in new wells.

- **Protection of Percentage Depletion for Independent Producers and Royalty Owners:**

This bill preserves the long-standing percentage depletion deduction, which is critical to the economic viability of small and marginal wells, and supports income stability for millions of American royalty owners.

never been more important, and today’s outcome proves that our voice matters. This isn’t just a legislative win—it’s a validation of the role independent producers play in securing America’s energy future.”

H.R. 1 now heads to the President’s desk, where it is expected to be signed into law. DEPA remains committed to working with both chambers of Congress and the Administration to ensure implementation reflects the spirit of the legislation: **supporting responsible, reliable, and affordable American energy.**



KERN COUNTY RESTORES ORDER: REVISED OIL & GAS ORDINANCE SIGNALS MAJOR WIN FOR CALIFORNIA ENERGY

In a pivotal move for California's embattled oil and gas industry, the Kern County Board of Supervisors has adopted a revised Oil and Gas Ordinance and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), restoring local authority over permitting and injecting sorely needed predictability into a process that has been paralyzed for years.

This action reestablishes Kern County as a leader in California's energy future, while delivering hope to thousands of workers and communities that have suffered under a dysfunctional state system. For the past five years, California's state-level permitting process has ground nearly to a halt—issuing just 48 permits for new wells in the past 18 months, compared to 2,000–3,000 annually prior to 2019.

The consequences have been severe: bankruptcies, widespread job loss, and a growing dependence on foreign oil imports—products that are not subject to California's rigorous environmental, labor, and safety standards.

“Kern County has long been the backbone of California's energy production, and we believe this ordinance is a critical step toward reclaiming local control, restoring economic certainty, and protecting good-paying local jobs,” said Rock Zierman, CEO of the California Independent Petroleum Association (CIPA). “If we don't produce oil here under California's strict standards, we'll continue importing it from countries with none of these protections.”

The newly adopted ordinance creates a streamlined, litigation-resistant permitting pathway that incorporates 89 enforceable mitigation measures to protect air, water, and public health. It balances regulatory oversight with the predictability needed by industry operators to plan investments, hire workers, and contribute to local economies through taxes and community spending.

The broader context couldn't be more urgent: the California Air Resources Board (CARB) projects that even under the state's most aggressive electrification and renewable energy goals, California will still need 400,000 barrels of crude oil per day to support essential petroleum-based products like medical equipment, plastics, asphalt, and grid-critical transformer oils. Today, California produces only about 280,000 barrels per day—leaving a significant supply gap that is increasingly filled by foreign imports.

This ordinance isn't just a win for Kern County—it's a lifeline for California's energy independence, workforce stability, and environmental accountability. Local oil and gas professionals understand the stakes and are ready to comply with the stringent standards this ordinance upholds, because they know what's at risk when California fails to support its own energy resources.

CIPA commended the Board of Supervisors for its leadership and vision, applauding the vote as a forward-looking step toward responsible, locally controlled energy development.

The bottom line? Kern County is once again paving the way for California's domestic energy future—and the oil and gas industry is ready to deliver.

FINAL RULE ON NPR-A RAISES CONSERVATION STANDARDS, PRESERVES DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

On June 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized a long-awaited update to its regulatory framework for the *National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska* (NPR-A)—the first major overhaul in more than four decades. This new rule aims to strike a careful balance between responsible oil and gas development and stronger protections for the Reserve’s rich natural and cultural resources.

Spanning 23 million acres on Alaska’s North Slope, the NPR-A is the nation’s largest block of public land. While historically known for its vast untapped petroleum resources, the Reserve is also home to critical wildlife habitat and holds significant cultural value for Indigenous communities that have relied on the land for subsistence for generations.

Key Provisions of the Final Rule:

- **Stronger Protection for Special Areas:** The rule codifies a process to establish, manage, and, when warranted, expand or revise Special Areas—ecologically and culturally sensitive regions within the Reserve. These areas receive “maximum protection of significant resource values,” per the *Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act* (NPRPA).
- **Enhanced Safeguards for Subsistence Resources:** New mitigation measures are now required to minimize the impact of energy activities on fish, caribou, migratory birds, and other subsistence resources critical to Alaska Native communities.
- **Codification of Key IAP Policies:** The rule incorporates major components of the 2022 *Integrated Activity Plan* (IAP), including where leasing and infrastructure are allowed and how exceptions may be made to support local community needs.

- **Preservation of Existing Oil & Gas Rights:** The rule explicitly respects valid existing oil and gas leases and development rights. Areas already closed to leasing under the 2022 IAP remain closed, but the path remains open for future development consistent with those restrictions.

Refinements Based on Public Input: After receiving over 100,000 public comments and holding six public meetings, the BLM made several key changes, including:

- Clarifying that the rule only applies to oil and gas activities;
- Extending the review period for Special Area boundaries from 5 to 10 years;
- Introducing a new public-facing “Statement of Adverse Effect” requirement when developments could harm Special Area values;
- Encouraging Tribal co-stewardship of both Special Areas and broader subsistence resources.

The rule will go into effect 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. A forthcoming *Request for Information* will invite public input on potential adjustments to existing Special Areas and the designation of new ones.

As the energy landscape in the Arctic evolves, industry stakeholders will continue to watch closely how BLM implements this new framework—particularly as it evaluates additional conservation designations that could further impact access to vital oil and gas resources.

For those with operations or interests in Alaska’s North Slope, understanding the updated rules—and participating in the upcoming public comment period—will be key to navigating the Reserve’s new regulatory terrain.

OP/ED: IT'S TIME TO STOP SUBSIDIZING SOLAR AND WIND IN PERPETUITY

BY U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY
CHRIS WRIGHT



How much would you pay for an Uber if you didn't know when it would pick you up or where it was going to drop you off? Probably not much.

Yet this is the same effect that [variable generation sources](#) like wind and solar have on our power grids.

You never know if these energy sources will actually be able to produce electricity when you need it — because you don't know if the sun will be shining or the wind blowing.

Even so, the federal government has subsidized these sources for decades, resulting in higher electricity prices and a less stable grid.

President Donald Trump knows what to do: Eliminate green tax credits from the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, including those for wind and solar power.

The One Big Beautiful Bill seeks to do that: Along with other proposals, like canceling billions in Biden Green New Deal money and making much-needed investments in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, it aims to set an aggressive end date for these subsidies and build on the president's push for affordable, abundant, and secure energy for the nation.

As Secretary of Energy — and someone who's devoted his life to advancing energy innovation to better human lives — I, too, know how these Green New Deal subsidies are fleecing Americans.

Wind and solar subsidies have been particularly wasteful and counterproductive.

One example: The Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit was first introduced in 1992, when wind energy was a nascent industry. This tax credit, originally set to phase out in 1999, was sold on a promise of low-cost energy with fewer tradeoffs.

Since 1999, the REPTC has been extended a whopping 12 times, yet consumers continue to pay more on average for their home electric bills than in 1992, even after adjusting for inflation.

12 DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

Plus, today, more than 75% of US electricity comes from natural gas, nuclear and coal — and they supply it 24/7, independent of the weather.

At 8 p.m. on Inauguration Day, amid bitter cold across much of the Eastern seaboard, we reached peak demand for electricity in the mid-Atlantic region. At that point in time, PJM Interconnection, which supplies the Mid-Atlantic United States, got approximately 44% of its power from coal, 24% from natural gas, 25% from nuclear, 3% from oil, 3% from wind, 1% from hydro and 0% from solar.

Think about that: When Americans most needed dependable power to heat their homes and businesses to stay alive, solar and wind were non-factors.

Our homes, hospitals and businesses only continued to operate because there was enough reliable, baseload energy from natural gas, coal and nuclear available to meet demand.

How valuable is a teammate who occasionally shows up for practice but is never there at game time?

And the more we load our grid with intermittent generation, the worse the grid performs during times of maximum stress and demand.

Subsidies are meant to drive prices down and boost supply. But subsidizing [wind and solar](#) has done exactly the opposite.

Bottom line: higher costs. Indeed, wind and solar subsidies not only cost taxpayers but also force providers to add more dispatchable resources to the grid, at their expense.

These costs are then passed on to ratepayers.

In other words, more wind and solar brings us the worst of two worlds: less reliable energy delivery *and* higher electric bills.

It's time to stop subsidizing such insanity **in perpetuity**. If sources are truly economically viable, let's allow them to stand on their own, and stop forcing Americans to pick up the tab if they're not.

RECLAIMING ENERGY POLICY FROM PARTISAN NARRATIVES:

WHAT THE MEDIA ISN'T TELLING YOU ABOUT RISING ELECTRICITY PRICES



Maine residents recently saw another increase in their electricity bills, and while the *Maine Monitor* was quick to blame “fossil fuel-driven climate change” and Republican-led policy reforms, the real story is far more complex—and far more urgent for Mainers and all Americans to understand.

It’s no secret that electricity costs are rising, but blaming oil and gas producers for extreme weather and using that as a justification to cling to flawed federal subsidies is misleading at best. In fact, weather-related infrastructure repairs are a symptom of a larger problem: an increasingly fragile, overburdened electric grid that’s been asked to carry more renewable load than it was ever designed to handle.

FOSSIL FUELS AREN’T THE VILLAIN— THEY’RE STILL THE BACKBONE

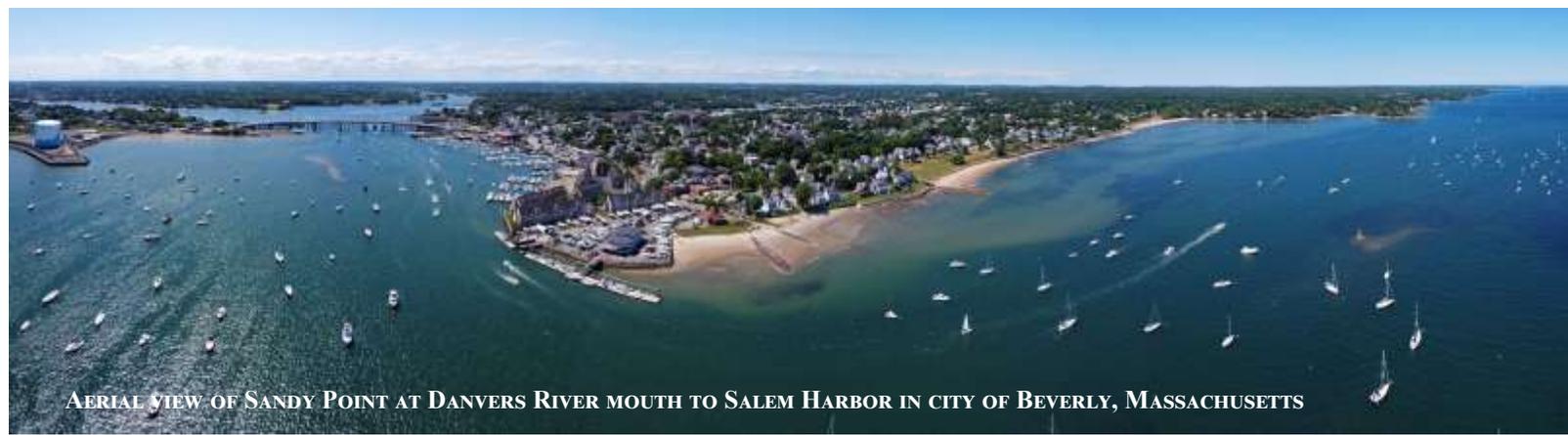
The narrative that repealing subsidies for wind and solar is “anti-clean energy” ignores economic reality. While renewables play a growing role in our power mix, they are intermittent and unreliable without fossil-fueled backup or large-scale storage—neither of which has been deployed at the pace needed to ensure reliability. Solar panels don’t generate during storms, and wind turbines often go still when demand peaks.

The so-called “clean energy” credits from the Inflation Reduction Act weren’t just incentives—they were distortions. Billions of taxpayer dollars were funneled into speculative projects that made promises of lower costs and climate benefits but have yet to deliver measurable savings for ratepayers. Instead, as these subsidies inflate the price of materials and labor while propping up unprofitable developments, ratepayers are left holding the bill.

ENERGY SECURITY MEANS SUPPORTING DOMESTIC OIL AND GAS

The budget bill advanced by Republicans strengthens America’s energy security by removing artificial market supports and refocusing policy on practical, proven energy sources—like clean-burning natural gas and domestic oil—that have kept America’s lights on and homes warm for decades. It doesn’t “raise prices for consumers,” as critics claim. It begins the long-overdue process of correcting market imbalances created by unsustainable federal intervention.

Let’s be clear: phasing out tax credits that were always intended to be temporary is not a rollback—it’s fiscal responsibility. Every dollar spent propping up renewables without regard for grid reliability or energy affordability is a dollar not spent hardening the grid, reducing wildfire risks, or modernizing transmission for all sources of power.



AERIAL VIEW OF SANDY POINT AT DANVERS RIVER MOUTH TO SALEM HARBOR IN CITY OF BEVERLY, MASSACHUSETTS

WHAT'S REALLY DRIVING HIGH POWER PRICES?

While states will have reasons that vary, Maine's surge in rates is a good example of how real world decisions locally have come to affect them now. In Maine, rates have surged due to its heavy dependence on imported energy, limited in-state generation, and the cost of integrating and subsidizing new renewable projects—not because of declining federal handouts. The recent hold on two solar projects is not a tragedy—it's a market correction. Projects that only make sense when fueled by federal giveaways were never sustainable.

The future of energy isn't a fantasy powered by press releases. It's a reality that must be built on affordability, reliability, and diverse resources. That means maintaining and expanding responsible oil and gas production, streamlining permitting for all infrastructure (renewable and traditional), and investing in innovation where it actually works—not just where it's politically fashionable.

A BETTER WAY FORWARD

The energy provisions in the new budget bill are not an attack on progress. They're a course correction toward energy realism. They prioritize affordability for working families, incentivize dependable infrastructure, and support the very workers—like the IBEW members cited in the Monitor piece—whose jobs depend not on handouts, but on a strong, balanced energy economy.

We agree with Senator Collins on one point: abrupt changes can disrupt planning, and transitions should be handled wisely. But that's not an argument for infinite subsidies. It's a call to return to policies grounded in performance, not ideology.

Let's give Americans what they really need: energy that is reliable, secure, and affordable—not just politically correct.

ENERGY DEPARTMENT APPOINTS INAUGURAL CEO TO LEAD ENERGY SECURITY AND INNOVATION FOUNDATION

The DOE announced July 28th the appointment of Rick Stockburger as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the [Foundation for Energy Security and Innovation](#) (FESI), the Department's first-ever independent agency-related foundation. Established to support DOE's mission, FESI will help accelerate energy technology commercialization, expand private-public collaboration, and strengthen America's energy system.

Stockburger, a decorated U.S. Army combat veteran and nationally recognized leader in energy innovation, brings a strong record of success in accelerating energy technology startups and advancing public-private partnerships. He served in Kosovo and Afghanistan before transitioning to the energy sector, where he has helped scale cutting-edge technologies from concept to market. Prior to joining FESI, Stockburger served as President and CEO

of BRITE Energy Innovators in Warren, Ohio, where he expanded the organization's budget and programming and helped generate over \$250 million in economic impact across the Midwest.

"Today's announcement marks a new chapter in how the Department will deliver breakthrough technologies to market," said U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. "Rick's proven leadership and background will help advance the Department's efforts to move emerging technologies into real world energy deployment—strengthening American science, innovation, and energy leadership. With him in place, FESI will be a valuable partner in expanding private-sector collaboration and delivering on President Trump's agenda to unleash American energy and innovation."

The Strait of Hormuz: Why This Narrow Passage Matters to U.S. Onshore Oil and Gas



You don't need to export through the Strait of Hormuz to be affected by it. Every well-head in the Permian Basin and every frack crew in the Bakken is part of a global web of supply and demand. The Strait is the world's pressure valve—when it's squeezed, the whole energy system reacts.

For U.S. oil and gas producers and service company owners focused on domestic operations, the Strait of Hormuz might seem distant—geographically and strategically. But this narrow waterway, only about 21 miles wide at its narrowest point, plays a massive role in global oil prices, supply chain stability, and geopolitical tension that can ripple directly into American markets, rig activity, and investment decisions.

WHAT IS THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ?

The Strait of Hormuz is a chokepoint between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. To its north lies Iran; to its south, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Nearly all maritime traffic from the oil-rich Gulf states—including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, the UAE, and Iraq—must pass through this channel to reach international markets.

Roughly **1/5 of the world's oil** (about **17–18 million barrels per day**) passes through the Strait of Hormuz. That includes **about 30% of all seaborne-traded crude oil** and a **significant portion of global LNG shipments**. Most of this oil goes to major consumers like China, India, Japan, and

South Korea, but disruptions in this flow create **global price shocks**, which hit U.S. producers and service companies just as hard.

WHY IT MATTERS TO DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS

While U.S. oil production has surged thanks to shale plays in Texas, North Dakota, and beyond, global oil is still a highly integrated market. WTI prices don't exist in a vacuum—when tankers can't pass through the Strait due to conflict, sabotage, or embargoes, global oil prices spike, creating volatility and uncertainty in everything from hedging strategies to service company contracts.

HERE'S WHY U.S. PRODUCERS AND SERVICE COMPANIES SHOULD CARE:

- **Geopolitical Risk Becomes Business Risk:** If Iran threatens to block or mine the Strait—as it has multiple times in recent decades—the fear alone can spike Brent and WTI prices. That volatility affects budgeting, drilling plans, and investor confidence.
- **Supply Chain Disruption Can Benefit or Hurt Domestic Producers:** When Middle East supply tightens, U.S. oil becomes more valuable. That can boost drilling activity, day rates for service companies, and export opportunities—if infrastructure keeps up.
- **U.S. LNG Exports Compete Globally:** As more U.S. LNG terminals come online, they compete with Qatari LNG flowing through the Strait. Any disruption there gives





U.S. gas producers a competitive edge—temporarily.

• **Navy and National Security Costs Are Real:**

The U.S. military invests heavily in keeping the Strait open and shipping secure. Those defense costs are part of the real price of “cheap” Middle Eastern oil.

A Brief History of Tensions The Strait of Hormuz has been a flashpoint for over 40 years:

- **1980s – The “Tanker War”:** During the Iran-Iraq War, both nations targeted oil tankers, prompting U.S. Navy escorts to protect Kuwaiti and Saudi shipments.
- **2000s – U.S. vs. Iran Naval Incidents:** Iran has repeatedly conducted naval exercises and harassed Western ships, often timed with sanctions or diplomatic showdowns.
- **2019 – Oil Tanker Attacks and Seizures:** Multiple tankers were sabotaged or seized, raising fears of open conflict. Oil prices jumped.
- **2023–2025 – Houthi Attacks and Ongoing Risk:** Iran-backed militias and Houthi rebels in Yemen have attacked shipping in the Red Sea and threatened Gulf traffic, further destabilizing global supply routes.

STRATEGIC TAKEAWAY FOR THE U.S. OILPATCH

You don’t need to export through the Strait of Hormuz to be affected by it. Every wellhead in the Permian Basin and every frack crew in the Bakken is part of a global web of supply and demand. The Strait is the world’s pressure valve—when it’s squeezed, the whole energy system reacts.

For U.S. oil and gas professionals, especially those in leadership, understanding geopolitical chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz isn’t just an academic exercise. It’s a lens through which to interpret sudden price shifts, policy changes, and investment signals. Whether you’re managing field operations or leading a multi-state service company, staying informed about global risks helps you plan better, hedge smarter, and grow more strategically.

As global demand remains strong and tensions in the Middle East persist, the Strait of Hormuz will continue to influence the future of the American energy sector—whether you’re watching it or not.



CONT’D FROM PAGE 7

lead to up to **\$1.8 billion in industry savings every year**, empowering operators to reinvest in exploration and development without the burden of duplicative infrastructure. Beyond cost savings, the rule is expected to reduce surface disturbance and environmental impacts by consolidating production to fewer well pads.

The BLM intends to proceed quickly with a formal rulemaking process under **43 CFR Subpart 3173**, which will include public comment opportunities. DEPA and its member companies will remain actively engaged to ensure the final rule reflects the realities of modern production while maintaining royalty integrity and environmental stewardship.

DOE GRID REPORT HIGHLIGHTS GRID STRESS, ENERGY DEMANDS

What Leaders in the Oil & Gas Industry Need to Know

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released its July 2025 *Grid Fact Sheet and Reliability Report*, highlighting growing strain on America’s electric grid due to a combination of weather extremes, retiring fossil generation, and rapidly increasing electricity demand from new technologies—especially artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers.

Key Findings of the Report:

- **Demand Is Surging:** The DOE projects *electricity demand to grow 4.7% annually over the next five years*, largely due to AI, data centers, electrification policies, and manufacturing growth under recent federal industrial initiatives.
- **Fossil Fuel Generation Is Declining:** Despite demand growth, *over 30 GW of dispatchable fossil capacity is set to retire by 2030*, with minimal replacement from firm sources.
- **Grid Reliability at Risk:** NERC (North American Electric Reliability Corporation) and DOE both warn of increased risk of blackouts and brownouts in multiple regions—especially during peak summer and winter conditions.
- **AI’s Role:** The energy required to power AI models and training facilities is *doubling year-over-year*, with large language models and real-time computing among the most intensive drivers.
- **Permitting Bottlenecks and Transmission Gaps:** DOE emphasizes the urgent need for *more natural gas pipelines, LNG export terminals, and expedited siting of generation*

infrastructure, yet permitting remains slow and inconsistent across states.

What This Means for Oil & Gas Producers and Service Companies

The federal government is acknowledging what industry experts have long warned: the grid cannot function reliably without dispatchable, abundant energy—and right now, only oil and natural gas can provide that at scale.

As the electric grid leans further into intermittent renewables and mandates fleet-wide electrification, **natural gas-fired generation will be essential to balance volatility, prevent outages, and support 24/7 industries like AI and manufacturing.**

Even the DOE—under an administration historically focused on green transitions—admits that energy security is threatened without reliable, on-demand fuel sources.

The bottom line is, for independent producers, service companies, and midstream operators, the report validates the crucial role of fossil fuels in the future energy mix—not just as a bridge, but as a cornerstone. Policymakers and utilities may pursue net-zero timelines, but America’s economy, national security, and technological leadership will depend on fossil energy reliability for decades to come.

DEPA will continue to advocate for smart energy policy that embraces reality: American oil and gas isn’t the problem—it’s the solution.

“AI is advancing at an unprecedented pace—but innovation doesn’t power itself,” said Jerry Simmons, DEPA CEO and President
“Behind every data center, every AI model, and every cloud-based tool is an energy backbone—and that backbone is built on oil and natural gas. Our industry isn’t just part of the future—we’re the foundation that makes the future possible.”

ND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INTRODUCES CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT TO REPEAL BLM'S LAND USE PLAN

Congresswoman Julie Fedorchak and Senators Kevin Cramer and John Hoeven introduced a *Congressional Review Act (CRA)* joint resolution of disapproval to overturn the Biden administration's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan (RMP) for North Dakota. The introduction follows the Government Accountability Office's (GAO) [determination](#) that the plan qualifies for repeal under the CRA.

"North Dakotans saw the Biden administration's plan for what it was: A backdoor attempt to shut down responsible energy development on federal lands. It would crush coal production, close off millions of acres to leasing, and devastate jobs and communities across our state," **said Rep. Fedorchak**. "This legislation overturns this harmful rule and restores common sense for North Dakota's landowners and energy producers. We need energy policy that embraces innovation, not one that caters to out-of-touch activists at the expense of our energy security and economic strength."

"The Biden Administration's Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan for North Dakota represented another assault upon our state's economy and energy producers," **said Senator Cramer**. "Washington bureaucrats targeted our coal, oil, and natural gas reserves by blocking producers' ability to develop them, ignoring the state's input, clear text of federal law, and countless court precedents. Thankfully, the Trump administration is taking a new direction. This resolution under the Congressional Review Act is another tool at our disposal to get rid of this disastrous rule."

"The RMP for North Dakota is an egregious example of the Biden administration's overreaching Green New Deal agenda. This rule would lock away vast oil and gas acreage and nearly 99 percent of federal coal acreage in our state, undermining our energy security and economic resilience," **said Senator Hoeven**. "The CRA resolution we're introducing will roll back this harmful policy, ensuring North Dakota remains a powerhouse for our nation, while helping the U.S. to become truly energy dominant."

In the final days of the Biden administration, the Bureau of Land Management **adopted** the RMP for North Dakota, significantly constraining the state's ability to access and develop its mineral resources. The plan prohibits coal leasing on over four million acres, or nearly 99 percent of federal coal acreage. It also blocks 213,000 acres, or 44 percent of federally owned fluid mineral acreage, to future development. Throughout the drafting process, the state of North Dakota and the Congressional delegation expressed opposition to the draft RMP before the BLM finalized it.

In February 2025, the North Dakota delegation [sent a letter to GAO](#) asking the Comptroller General of the U.S. Gene Doda-ro to "conclude the CRA applies to the North Dakota RMP, including specifically that GAO determine it is subject to CRA's submission requirements and subject to review by Congress."

North Dakota Governor Kelly Armstrong said, "We appreciate Senators Hoeven and Cramer and Congresswoman Fedorchak for introducing the CRA joint resolution, which is the cleanest, fastest way to overturn the Biden administration's disastrous plan. Instead of destabilizing the electric grid, raising consumer costs and making our nation less safe like the Biden plan threatened to do, North Dakotans deserve a



Julie Fedorchak represents North Dakota's At-Large Congressional District. She assumed office on January 3, 2025. Fedorchak has already declared candidacy for the 2026 election. Her current term ends on January 3, 2027.

Fedorchak was born in North Dakota. She earned a B.A. in journalism from the University of North Dakota in 1991. Her career experience includes working as a communications and media relations specialist.

Fedorchak was a spokesperson for Gov. Ed Schafer from 1995 to 2000 and became North Dakota state director for U.S. Sen. John Hoeven (R-N.D.) in 2011.

Julie and her husband Mike will celebrate 25 years of marriage this summer.

Mike is a Navy vet who served active duty on an oiler during the Kuwait War. He and Julie met at UND. Mike and Julie have three children and live in Mandan.

They volunteer in a number of community organizations including the University of Mary, where Julie is a member of the Board of Trustees.





Kevin Cramer was elected to the Senate in 2018 after serving three terms as NDA-T-large Member of the House of Representatives.

He is the first Republican to hold this Senate seat in his lifetime. He serves on the Armed Services, Environment and Public Works, Veterans Affairs, Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs and Budget Committees.

According to Legistorm, the Capitol Hill government issues website, Cramer held more town halls than any other Member during several of his years in the House. Cramer has had a distinguished career in public service.

In 2003, then-Governor John Hoeven appointed Cramer to the Public Service Commission, and in 2004 he was elected to the position. As a North Dakota Public Service Commissioner, Cramer helped oversee the most dynamic economy in the nation. He worked to ensure North Dakotans enjoy some of the lowest utility rates in the United States, enhancing their competitive position in the global marketplace. An energy policy expert, Cramer understands America's energy security is integral to national and economic security.

A strong advocate for the free market system, Cramer has a proven record of cutting and balancing budgets, encouraging the private sector through limited, commonsense regulations and limited government.

Cramer has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, a Master's degree in Management from the University of Mary in Bismarck. Kevin and his wife, Kris, have two adult sons.

Resource Management Plan that encourages responsible development of U.S. energy resources and supports our communities. The state stands ready to work with our delegation to repeal the RMP and replace it with a plan that protects states' rights and recognizes our unique concerns about mineral ownership."

Alison Ritter, Executive Director of the Western Dakota Energy Association, stated, "The Western Dakota Energy Association thanks our Congressional Delegation for introducing this Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the anti-energy Resource Management Plan (RMP) President Biden imposed upon North Dakota. Rescinding this plan is key to unlocking North Dakota's full energy potential, while also protecting good-paying jobs, sustaining strong local economies, and preserving responsible access to the vital resources that power our nation."

Ron Ness, President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council, added, "As part of former President Biden's over-reaching regulatory agenda, the BLM proposed a Resource Management Plan which was nothing but a transparent anti-energy power grab. The North Dakota Petroleum Council thanks Senators Hoeven and Cramer and Congresswoman Fedorchak for introducing this Congressional Review Act resolution that would force the BLM to simply respect the rule of law."

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the CRA.



John Hoeven was sworn in as ND's 22nd U.S. Senator in 2011, following ten years of service as the state's governor.

Hoeven brings North Dakota's winning economic formula to the national stage, crafting policies that drive the economy forward, especially in the energy, agriculture, and defense sectors. His commitment to cutting red tape and building a business-friendly environment aims to boost job growth and economic activity, while tackling the nation's debt and deficit. Senator Hoeven believes in a commonsense approach that promotes free enterprise, empowers innovation, and encourages investment—an approach that will not only strengthen the economy but also create sustainable jobs for future generations.

Hoeven serves on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, as Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee and a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, a member of the Senate Defense Appropriations Committee,

Hoeven was born in Bismarck, earned a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College in 1979 and a master's degree in business administration from Northwestern University in 1981. He served as executive vice president of First Western Bank in Minot from 1986 to 1993, and served on many civic, community, and economic development groups. From 1993-2000, he served as president and CEO of the Bank of North Dakota.

Senator Hoeven and his wife Mical (Mikey) live in Bismarck. They have two children



RARE EARTHS IN COAL: WHAT WYOMING'S BROOK MINE SIGNALS FOR U.S. ENERGY PRODUCERS AND SERVICE COMPANIES

The ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ramaco Resources' Brook Mine in northeastern Wyoming marks more than just the launch of the state's first new coal mine in half a century — it signals a strategic pivot with implications for the broader domestic energy industry, especially for U.S. oil and gas producers and the companies that support them.

What sets the Brook Mine apart isn't just coal. It's what's *in* the coal: **rare earth elements (REEs)** and **critical minerals** vital to everything from smartphones and electric vehicles to military equipment and renewable energy systems. Ramaco's long-term plan — to mine, process, and sell these rare earths domestically — positions this \$500+ million endeavor as a potential national asset in the race to break dependence on China, which currently controls nearly 90% of the world's rare earth supply.

WHY IT MATTERS TO DOMESTIC PRODUCERS

The U.S. oil and gas sector has long been a cornerstone of energy security and industrial strength. The Brook Mine's rare earth ambitions intersect with those goals in key ways:

- **Energy Independence Through Resource Control:** Just as domestic oil and gas reduces reliance on foreign powers, so does homegrown production of rare earths. These materials are indispensable for drilling equipment, advanced sensors, directional tools, and the broader suite of technologies that make modern hydrocarbon development possible.
- **Supply Chain Synergy:** Processing facilities, transport infrastructure, and energy services already

established by oil and gas firms — especially in the Mountain West — could find new demand as rare earth mining scales. This may include power solutions, water management, material transport, environmental services, and mineral processing innovations.

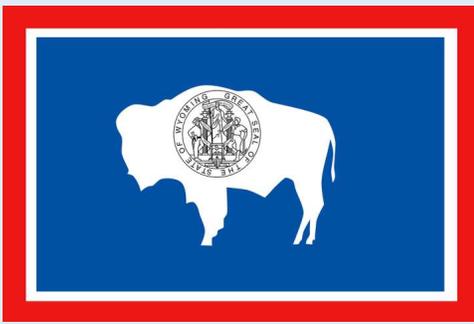
- **Policy and Permitting Tailwinds:** The Trump administration's broader efforts to re-incentivize fossil development — from rolling back royalties on federal coal leases to supporting rail infrastructure for Utah's Uinta Basin oil — reflect a renewed federal posture toward domestic extraction of all kinds. Oil and gas companies operating on federal land stand to benefit from the same permitting momentum and regulatory clarity now being extended to coal and critical minerals.

A NEW CHAPTER FOR MULTI-USE FOSSIL RESOURCES

Brook Mine is more than a nostalgia project for Wyoming coal. It's a prototype for **multi-stream resource extraction**. Ramaco CEO Randall Atkins envisions a dual revenue model: sell processed coal as fuel, and extract high-value minerals like neodymium, dysprosium, terbium, gallium, and scandium along the way.

According to national lab analyses, Brook's coal contains commercially significant quantities of these elements — which are central to technologies including:

- **Permanent magnets**
(used in wind turbines and oilfield equipment)
- **Military-grade targeting systems**
- **Electric vehicle batteries and advanced sensors**



The goal is to build a rare earth and critical minerals processing plant alongside the mine, funded in part by a recent \$6.1 million grant from the State of Wyoming. If proven economically viable, this model could encourage further development of untapped mineral assets in energy-rich basins across the U.S.

WHAT TO WATCH

- 1. Downstream Opportunities:** Oilfield service providers may find new customer segments in coal-to-mineral processing. Think fluid systems, separation technology, or chemical treatment — all familiar domains.
- 2. Investment Signals:** Former U.S. Senator Joe Manchin recently joined Ramaco’s board, a move that underscores political and strategic interest in expanding critical mineral capabilities. Expect more crossover leadership and financing opportunities between fossil sectors.
- 3. Federal Alignment:** With the administration advancing plans to open new federal coal leases and reconsider exploration permits, particularly in energy corridors like Utah and Wyoming, producers in all sectors should track how these shifts affect timelines and public land access.

The Brook Mine launch is a reminder that U.S. energy policy is no longer siloed — coal, oil, gas, and even renewables now share a common thread: **resource security**. For oil and gas producers, this signals potential new revenue paths, deeper integration into critical supply chains, and a renewed federal push to unleash the full value of American soil.

As Energy Secretary Chris Wright said:

“Not only do we get coal here, we are going to get those rare earth elements that are going to break our dependence on China.”

For those in the domestic oil and gas community, this is a signal: the era of single-use extraction may be ending, and a more integrated, multi-resource frontier is emerging. Now is the time to explore how your operations — and your expertise — might be part of it.

DOE ANNOUNCES SITE SELECTION FOR AI DATA CENTER AND ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ON FEDERAL LANDS

DOE announced July 24, the next steps in the Trump administration’s plan to accelerate the development of AI infrastructure through siting on DOE lands. DOE has selected four sites— Idaho National Laboratory, Oak Ridge Reservation, Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and Savannah River Site—to move forward with plans to invite private sector partners to develop cutting edge AI data center and energy generation projects.

Today’s announcement supports the Trump administration’s goals of utilizing Federal lands to lower energy costs and help power the global AI race, as outlined in President Trump’s Executive Orders on Accelerating Federal Permitting of Data Center Infrastructure, Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security, and Unleashing American Energy.

"By leveraging DOE land assets for the deployment of AI and

energy infrastructure, we are taking a bold step to accelerate the next Manhattan Project—ensuring U.S. AI and energy leadership," said **Energy Secretary Chris Wright**. "These sites are uniquely positioned to host data centers as well as power generation to bolster grid reliability, strengthen our national security, and reduce energy costs."

DOE said in their press release, they look forward to working with data center developers, energy companies, and the broader public in consultation with states, local governments, and federally recognized tribes that these projects will serve to further advance this important initiative. More details regarding project scope, eligibility requirements, and submission guidelines at each site will be available with the site-specific releases. These solicitations are expected to be released in the coming months and partners could be selected by the end of the year. DOE is also evaluating additional sites that could issue solicitations in the future.

SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS AND ARTICLES YOU SHOULDN'T MISS



California Independent Petroleum Association
882 followers
1w • 🌐

"We agree with the Energy Commission on one major point: if California is serious about stabilizing gas prices, it must increase local crude production and stop the rise of expensive foreign imports," said Rock Zierman, Chief Executive Officer of CIPA. [#ProduceItHere](#)

Read More: https://lnkd.in/gHMD_bsb ✓

NEWS ALERT  **CIPA Responds to CEC Fuel Report: Time to Prioritize California Workers, California Oil, and California...**
californiaenergyforall.com



Anne Bradbury  • 1st
CEO at American Exploration and Production Council
1w • 🌐

As [Senator Dave McCormick](#) said yesterday: "The future will not build itself."

Building it requires investment, innovation, and yes – energy. That's why I was proud to attend the Senator's inaugural Pennsylvania Energy and Innovation Summit alongside industry leaders like [Toby Z. Rice](#), [Rusty Hutson](#), [Nick Dell'Osso](#), and [Chad Zamarin](#). The conversations we had reinforced just how critical securing affordable, reliable, American-made energy is to powering the next generation of industries being built in Pennsylvania, from AI to advanced manufacturing.

At the [American Exploration & Production Council](#), we're excited to help strengthen our nation's energy foundation and keep America leading on the world stage.



Jacqueline Anderson Horsley ✓ • 1st
Office of Policy | U.S. Department of Energy
1w • 🌐

"The world stands at an energy crossroads and it is time to choose. Do we want an energy policy of exclusion and scarcity that shackles humanity and limits economic potential? Or do we want a policy of inclusion and abundance, bursting all limits to growth and opportunity?"

<https://lnkd.in/emXTjd6w> ✓



Climate change is a by-product of progress, not an existential crisis, says Trump's energy czar
economist.com



Texas Alliance of Energy Producers
15,433 followers
6d · 🌐

We are proud to join this coalition. Alliance President **Karr Ingham's** remarks ahead of today's **House Committee On Natural Resources** hearing on permitting reform: "While we don't have much in the way of production on federal lands and waters in Texas, access to markets for Texas and U.S.-produced crude oil and natural gas is critical and has long been hampered by abuses in the permitting process. Additional pipeline and export capacity, including new LNG export facilities, is required to support the extraordinary growth in production accomplished by the U.S. domestic oil and gas industry. Moving products to domestic and global markets more quickly meets growing energy needs at home and abroad, meets those needs in much cleaner fashion compared to non-U.S. production, and reduces the need to flare natural gas."

Energy Workforce & Technology Council
20,659 followers
6d · 🌐

Energy Industry to Congress: Act Now on Permitting Reform

Today, Energy Workforce joined a united coalition of oil and gas trade associations urging the **House Committee On Natural Resources** to take immediate action on permitting reform.

We're ready to build. But federal red tape and abuse of NEPA are stalling investment, innovation, and jobs across America. It's time for Congress to streamline permitting and unleash the full potential of U.S. energy production.

Read our letter to Chairman **Representative Bruce Westerman** ahead of this week's oversight hearing: <https://lnkd.in/dcUwAmXG>

Kevin Hern · 1st
United States Congressman @ United States House of Representatives | Serving O...
Visit my website
6d · 🌐

When Iran started dropping bombs on Israel two weeks ago, a group of pastors from Oklahoma and our surrounding states were in the Holy Land, stuck in bomb shelters with no way out of the war zone and back home. I got a call from the wife of one of the pastors on the trip asking for help. Over the next eight days, I was in constant contact with the State Department, TSA, FAA, DHS, our embassies in multiple countries, an extraction team based out of Florida, and so many other individuals who wanted to help. It took a massive amount of cooperation between nearly a dozen government agencies, as well as our private team of extraction specialists, but we finally got these Okies back on American soil in Tampa, Florida.

When Iran started dropping bombs on Israel two weeks ago, a group of pastors from Oklahoma and our surrounding states were in the Holy Land, stuck in bomb shelters with no way out of the war zone and back home. I got a call from the wife of one of the pastors on the trip asking for help. Over the next eight days, I was in constant contact with the State Department, TSA, FAA, DHS, our embassies in multiple countries, an extraction team based out of Florida, and so many other individuals who wanted to help. It took a massive amount of cooperation between nearly a dozen government agencies, as well as our private team of extraction specialists, but we finally got these Okies back on American soil in Tampa, Florida, early Friday morning.

I've been a pilot for my entire adult life. I've flown countless flights (including to and from DC most weeks), but the most rewarding flight I've ever piloted was without a doubt this trip bringing 21 Oklahomans back home from Tampa after their long and difficult journey out of Israel.

Matthew Foldi, a journalist with the Washington Reporter, went through the same experience last week - stuck in bomb shelters several floors below ground, trying to figure out how to get home. I had the opportunity to share our story with him: the complex routes they had to take out of the country, the cooperation between government entities, the joy of the families welcoming their loved ones home, and, of course, the protection of our Heavenly Father over these pastors from ballistic missiles launched by terrorists who want to end Israel and America.

In the almost-seven years since I came to Congress, I've helped a lot of constituents through a lot of different issues... Getting my constituents out of an active war zone was by far the most intense, but most fulfilling experience I've had as a Member of Congress.

Thank you, [Matthew F.](#), for sharing this story, and thank you to President Trump for pursuing PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH!

Anne Atkinson Hyre · 1st
Executive Director, Bettering Human Lives Foundation
21h · 🌐

The **International Energy Agency (IEA)** has just issued a new, very insightful report entitled, **Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa**. It highlights how access to clean cooking greatly improves health, development, education, and the ...more

Universal Access to Clean Cooking in Africa
Progress update and roadmap for implementation



International Energy Agency

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS



DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

The welfare of the U.S. and the world begins with energy. With the change in administration, we now have leadership that understands the importance of domestic oil and gas production in achieving energy dominance and strengthening our economy. However, our work is far from over.

A pro-fossil fuel administration provides us with a unique opportunity to make meaningful strides, but it does not mean we can afford to sit back and relax. We must continue to engage, educate, and advocate to ensure that the foundation of our energy security remains strong for generations to come. Policies and regulations can shift quickly, and it is vital that we stay vigilant and proactive in defending our industry against misinformation and unnecessary regulatory hurdles.

DEPA remains committed to bringing facts and clear thinking to the table where energy challenges are being discussed. Our presence in Washington, D.C., is critical to ensuring that lawmakers understand the real-world impact of their decisions and the essential role our industry plays in the lives of all Americans.

The most powerful way you can make a difference is by becoming a DEPA member or renewing your membership. Your support strengthens our ability to advocate for policies that protect and promote American oil and gas. But membership is just the beginning—you can amplify DEPA's impact by staying engaged, spreading the word to your network, and ensuring that industry voices are heard where it matters most.

Thank you for your dedication to DEPA and for everything you do to support our mission. Together, we can secure a strong, thriving, and energy-dominant future for our nation.

Sincerely,

Jerry Simmons

DEPA President/CEO

WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN OIL AND NATURAL GAS

DEPA



DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS ALLIANCE

MEMBER INFORMATION:

MEMBER NAME: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PRIMARY EMAIL: _____

SECONDARY EMAIL: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

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MEMBER LEVELS:

- \$100,000: DEPA UNDERWRITER
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- \$500: FRIEND OF THE INDUSTRY
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Return completed form and payment to:

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Tulsa, OK 74135

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405-669-6646

INFO@DEPAUSA.ORG

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“Let’s all check our desires to be fashionable or hip when we talk about energy. Energy is so critical to human well-being that we must speak honestly, candidly, and frequently to combat the increasingly damaging plague of energy ignorance that has taken over our country and much of the western world.”

- Chris Wright, Liberty Energy CEO and DEPA Board Member

DEPA PAC

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

DEPA PAC Co-CHAIRMEN | DAVID LE NORMAN AND DAN BOREN

The DEPA PAC works to ensure there is a loud, clear voice for the industry. Reliable, clean, efficient, affordable, energy is vital to our country, and the world. We are unapologetic about being the driver of economic growth and security across the globe.

We believe the only way to accomplish our sharply focused agenda is to establish common ground. We consistently seek common sense solutions to the challenges that face us in business, including our relations with the legislative and executive branches of the Federal government.

Please support American Energy Independence with your DEPA PAC Donation.

**AMERICAN ENERGY POLICY IS NOT
A REPUBLICAN ISSUE OR A DEMOCRAT ISSUE.
IT IS AN AMERICAN PROSPERITY AND A LEADERSHIP ISSUE.**



DEPA PAC

DOMESTIC ENERGY PRODUCERS' ALLIANCE POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

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Federal Law Requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contribution aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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PAC contribution are not deductible for federal tax purposes. The maximum an individual may contribute to a PAC is \$5,000 per year. Couples maybe contribute \$10,000 from a joint account, but such contributions require both signatures. Contributions from corporations, labor unions, federal government contractors, national banks, and foreign nationals without permanent residency status and from any individual contribution another's funds are prohibited.

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